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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 04964 102025Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------076864 102043Z /61
P 101616Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0009

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STADIS//////////////////

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY VANCE

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PEPR, OAU, LI
SUBJECT: U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GOL FOR 1979 OAU SUMMIT CONFERENCE

REFS: (A) MONROVIA 4206 (B) MONROVIA 3312 (C) MONROVIA 1155
(D) 77 STATE 306953

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS REMINDED ME JULY 3 OF THE NOVEMBER 22, 1977 AIDE-MEMOIRE IN WHICH THE GOL REQUESTED OUR SUPPORT FOR THE 1979 OAU CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING IN MONROVIA, AND OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU DURING THE APRIL VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER. HE NOTED THE GENEROUS RESPONSE OF THE FRG (WHICH HAS COMMITTED 19M DM IN LOANS AND GRANTS FOR OAU '79 - REFTEL (C) AND ASKED IF WE HAD HEARD ANY NEWS FROM WASHINGTON. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD NO REPLY YET, THAT A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES WERE UNDER DISCUSSION, AND THAT YOU HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE MATTER.

2. I AM CONCERNED THAT IF WE CANNOT COME TO ANY
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DECISION SOON ON THE PROJECTS SUGGESTED SO FAR (REFTELS B AND C), WE WILL FIND THAT THERE WILL BE INSUFFICIENT TIME LEFT FOR IMPLEMENTATION. WE HAVE LESS THAN 12 MONTHS. THEREFORE, I HOPE THAT ACTION CAN BE STIMULATED BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. IN THIS REGARD, I RECALL THAT I WAS TOLD IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH THAT OUR PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE NAVIGATIONAL AID FACILITES AT ROBERTS

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INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OR SPRIGGS-PAYNE AIRPORT
SEEMED TO HAVE MOST POTENTIAL. NOW I
HAVE RECEIVED INFORMAL WORD THAT FAA CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT
OR EQUIPMENT ONLY THROUGH REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENT AND
THAT AID IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE FUNDS.

3. WE ARE THUS FACING A SITUATION IN WHICH WE SHALL
HAVE TO TELL THE GOL THAT WE CAN DO NOTHING FOR IT FOR
OAU '79 BEYOND SOME HONOR GUARD AND SECURITY DETACHMENT
TRAINING. THIS RESPONSE IS NOT COMMENSURATE WITH THE
IMPORTANCE OF OUR INTERESTS HERE. I FEEL IT ONLY PRUDENT
TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOL EFFORT
TO HOST THE 1979 OAU CONFERENCE. TOLBERT'S TERM OF
PRESIDENCY OF THE OAU WILL PUT HIM IN A PARTICULARLY
GOOD POSITON TO INFLUENCE THE DIRECTION OF OAU POLICIES.
HAVING BEEN ASKED TO SHARE WITH THE GOL THE BURDEN OF
HOSTING THE CONFERENCE, WE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE
REGARD FOR TOLBERT'S POTENTIAL TO HELP US IF WE
SHOW OURSELVES UNRESPONSIVE TO HIS REQUEST.

4. I BELIEVE, MR. SECRETARY, THAT THIS IS A MATTER IN
WHICH YOU WILL WANT TO TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST.
CARTER

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